

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Criminal Justice Program is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the social organization and administration of the criminal justice system. Courses are offered in theories of crime and delinquency, law enforcement, the courts, corrections, and administration. A criminal justice agency internship is required for most students, but an additional criminal justice course may be substituted for students with extensive prior work experience related to criminal justice.

GOALS

The goals of the Criminal Justice Degree Program are as follows:

1. To instill in our students a thorough understanding of the social organization and administration of the criminal justice system, including the development of theory and policy through well-informed research.
2. To instill in our students the ability to read, analyze, and reflect critically upon text and dialogue (from such sources as peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, government reports, statements of theory and policy, etc.) within the fields of criminology and criminal justice.
3. To instill in our students the ability to apply the concepts, knowledge and methods learned in their course studies to the practice of criminal justice in a real-world environment.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Some general student learning objectives that directly apply to the goals of the program are:

1. The demonstration of knowledge of major concepts related to criminal justice, including the administration and organization of the criminal justice system, as well as past and current policy and theory, and current research methods.
2. The ability to apply the major concepts, theory and research in criminal justice to everyday practice within the field.
3. The demonstration of critical thinking skills as evidenced by the ability to critically evaluate existing statements of theory and policy, as well as research and evidence in the field of criminal justice
4. The demonstration of the ability to synthesize existing research into a literature review and proposal for further research on a topic directly related to the field of criminal justice.